

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 6921

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, US, IR

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY US PASSPORT AND OBTENTION OF IRANIAN
VISAS

1. ADDRESSEE POSTS REQUESTED COOPERATE WITH EFFORTS KEEP US
MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM TRAVELING TO IRAN WITHOUT US PASSPORTS AND
IRANIAN VISAS. SMALL NUMBER SUCH UNDOCUMENTED US PERSONNEL
ARRIVE TEHRAN AIRPORT TO CONSTERNATION IRANIAN AUTHORITIES,
WHO RIGHTFULLY CONSIDER IT DISRESPECTFUL OF IRANIAN LAWS.
HERETOFORE, EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE TEMPORARY ENTRY OF
UNDOCUMENTED PERSONNEL, BUT AT COST OF A "DEBT" TO RELUCTANT
IRANIAN AUTHORITIES AND GREAT STRAIN CONSULAR PERSONNEL RESOURCES
(E.G., CONSULAR EMPLOYEE MUST TRAVEL TO AIRPORT USUALLY DURING
LATE NIGHT OR EARLY MORNING HOURS TO TAKE CUSTODY OF ERRANT
TRAVELER, SPEND BETTER PART OF NEXT DAY IN OBTAINING PASSPORT AND
VISA DOCUMENTATION, RETURN TO AIRPORT FOR ENTRY CLEARANCE).
IN MOST RECENT INSTANCE, HOWEVER, UNDOCUMENTED SERVICEMAN WAS NOT
ADMITTED AND WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO HIS POINT OF ORIGIN.

2. US MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN ALERTED TO PROBLEM WORLD-
WIDE AND SEEKS TO ASSURE THAT ALL DOD PERSONNEL ARRIVE HERewith
APPROPRIATE TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION. THE EFFORT HAS BEEN GENERALLY
SUCCESSFUL, EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO SERVICEMEN PER MONTH WHO ARRIVE
UNDOCUMENTED. PROBLEM STEMS FROM FACT US MILITARY PERSONNEL DO NOT
NEED PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO NATO COUNTRIES, WITH SOME ADMINISTRA-
TIVE PERSONNEL IN REMOTE AREAS APPARENTLY NOT AWARE THAT BOTH US
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PASSPORT AND IRANIAN VISA REQUIRED HERE. EMBASSY HAS DIS-

CUSSED MATTER WITH PAN AM, SOLE AMERICAN CARRIER WITH REGULAR FLIGHTS TO IRAN. PAN AM HAS AGREED TO SCREEN PASSENGERS MORE CLOSELY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION. IT HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO NOTIFY ADDRESSEE POSTS TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY PASSPORTS FOR UNDOCUMENTED SERVICEMEN TRAVELING TO IRAN AND TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING APPROPRIATE VISAS FOR THEM.

3. SINCE NUMBER OF SUCH UNDOCUMENTED TRAVELERS IS VERY SMALL, EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT THAT SERIOUS WORK BURDENS WILL RESULT. NEVERTHELESS, ADDRESSEE POSTS REQUESTED TO INFORM TEHRAN WHETHER IT ANTICIPATES ANY PROBLEMS.
HELMS

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